

I am opposed to this petition. I respectfully submit the following:

1. There is no solid proof that removal of the CW requirement furthers the principles of Part 97, Section 97.1 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
2. There is no proof that removal of the CW requirement would expand the reservoir of operators in the service. Our goal should not be to expand the number of operators, but to expand the number of qualified, experienced and dedicated operators.
3. Although CW may not be required by international obligation, that has no bearing on requirements in the United States should be. We must be leaders, not followers.
4. CW is still a very active mode and it is not true that modern equipment for phone usage is more accessible than that for the operation of Morse. It is my experience that the majority of new equipment sold today also has the capability features needed to operate CW.
5. CW, as a weak signal mode, does not require the use of a computer as some of the other weak signal modes do. In a blackout, many of the newer digital modes would be rendered useless.
6. There is no proof that the removal of the CW requirement would enhance emergency communications. It would detract from emergency communications in that there would be fewer operators that can copy a Morse code message during those times.

The Technician class license should be viewed as a means to foster a solid background for advancement to the higher license classes. If an operator wishes to expand his/her privileges, then dedication to the service and art of ham radio should be shown through the willingness to learn the required elements. CW is not a burden for a large majority of operators. It (CW) fosters international communications where many times phone operation will not due to a language barrier. It is time to stop removing required elements - instead, we should be focusing on adding elements to guarantee that 'qualified pool of operators' that the Amateur Radio Service is all about.